

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th September 1895.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>CALCUTTA.</b>			
	<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	20th September 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	21st ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	" .....		
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	20th September 1895.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" .....	21st ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	18th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	20th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	21st ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	23rd ditto.	
	<i>Daily</i>				
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	" 200	22nd to 24th September 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	13th, 17th, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 24th September 1895.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	23rd September 1895.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	" .....	14th ditto.	
	<i>Daily.</i>				
1	"Dainik Bhárat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" .....	14th, 17th, 18th, and 20th to 22nd September 1895.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	" .....	18th September 1895.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	17th September 1895.	
2	"General and Gauhariyasi" ...	Ditto	" 300		
<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500	16th September 1895.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	17th September 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	22nd ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	" .....	22nd ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	20th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>		<b>PRESIDENCY DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	18th September 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto	608	20th ditto.	



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
	<i>Weekly.</i>				This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	18th September 1895.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300	12th ditto.	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150		It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280	15th September 1895.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	20th September 1895.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	19th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	23rd September 1895.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	Bhadra, 2nd fortnight, 1302 B.S.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	Bhadra, 2nd fortnight, 1302 B.S.	







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sahachar* of the 18th September says that it has been a mistaken policy on the part of the new Ministry to decide on the retention of Chitral in opposition to the

The Chitral policy.

advice of old Generals like Sir Donald Stewart and others. It is a pity that poor India will have the cost of the retention thrown upon her.

2. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 19th September observes that the darkness which affairs in Armenia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria have produced in the political

The situation in Europe.

horizon of Turkey is a clear indication of the impending revival of the whirlwind which before the Treaty of Berlin threatened to destroy the whole European Continent. To the eye of the statesman the present situation is analogous to that in which affairs stood before the Russo-Turkish war of 1878. On that occasion Mr. Gladstone left no stone unturned to set the whole Christian world against Turkey. The present situation would have long come to a crisis if Mr. Gladstone had a man like Mr. Benjamin Disraeli to back him. It was these two men who brought about the last Russo-Turkish war.

3. With reference to Mr. Gladstone's Chester speech on the Armenian question, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 21st September makes the following observations:—

The Armenian question.

The Turkish Government may sometimes have broken its plighted troth. But can Mr. Gladstone say that the British Government, of which he was at the head only a few months ago, has never broken its pledges? Is he prepared to say that the pledges given to the people of India in Her Majesty's Proclamation of 1858 have been fulfilled without a single exception, and that most of them have not been honoured more in the breach than in the observance? Whenever a European nation is bent upon depriving a weaker nation of its independence, it generally tries to pick a quarrel with the latter under a pretext. At one time it is scientific exploration, at another the preaching of the gospel. Sometimes it goes by the name of the spread of commerce, and sometimes it puts on the cloak of humanity. Mr. Gladstone waxes eloquent over the alleged cruelties perpetrated by the Musalman subjects of the Sultan upon the Christian Armenians. But why is he silent about the cruelties perpetrated by the Christians all over the world—about the oppression of the Indian people by the indigo and tea planters, about the Indian slave trade in the form of cooly emigration, about the murder of the natives of India by the Europeans resident in the country? Why, again, does not Mr. Gladstone's voice find its vent in condemning the atrocities of the British Government of India during the Sepoy Mutiny when men were hanged by the score from the branches of trees without even the formality of a trial? If the Sultan is to be held responsible for the cruelties perpetrated by one class of his subjects upon another, will not the British Government, by parity of reasoning, be held responsible for the murder of Indians by the European soldiers, and also for the acquittals of European prisoners by the European jury? But Mr. Gladstone is not certainly prepared to go so far as that. The truth is that the Turkish Government has all along treated its Armenian subjects well, and has granted them privileges which are not even dreamt of by the foreign subjects of the British Government. During the Muhammadan rule in India the Hindus filled such high posts in the Government service as they will never be allowed to fill during the British rule. There can be no comparison between a Christian and a Musalman Government in this respect.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 18th, 1895.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Sept. 19th, 1895.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

4. One Raghunath Dikshit, writing from Jalampur within the jurisdiction of the Gangajalghati thana in the Bankura district,

A case of harassment under the  
Chaukidari Act.

in the *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th September complains that though he was never appointed a panchayet, a warrant has been issued against him for non-payment of chaukidars' salaries in time. A fine of 8 annas having also been inflicted upon him, he has written to the Magistrate complaining of his unjust harassment.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Sept. 16th, 1895.



In the meantime a fresh fine of Rs. 2 has been inflicted on the correspondent, but for what fault is not yet known to him.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 17th, 1895.

5. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th September says that two Musalmans, servants of the Magistrate, became drunk and disorderly on the public road. A passer-by who remonstrated with them was fallen foul of. He would have been roughly handled if he had not taken to his heels and sought shelter in the house of Babu Umacharan Dutt, a local pleader. The ruffians, however, pursued him even to his place of shelter, where they proved themselves unruly and offensive. Babu Umacharan repeatedly sent for police protection, but no policeman came to his rescue. One of the passers-by, however, arrested one of the drunken ruffians and took him to the police-station, when a police constable was sent to arrest the other. The dilatoriness of the Burdwan police has become almost proverbial.

The Burdwan Police.

VIKRAMPUR,  
Sept. 19th, 1895.

6. A correspondent of the *Vikrampur* of the 19th September says that one Kanai Das was a panchayet in Harhdia mauza in Vikrampur in the Dacca district. He grew old and infirm, but still he was not relieved of his duties. After a good deal of trouble he succeeded in getting his name withdrawn from the list of panchayets, but still he was not safe. A local village chaukidar was not paid for several years, and he has now realized his dues by selling the poor man's property. Is there none to come to the rescue of this poor man?

A panchayet in trouble.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

7. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 20th September complains of the increase of *gunda* oppression in Calcutta, and says that at midnight on the 17th instant last a gentleman, while passing along a lane near the Wellington Square water-works, was robbed by three or four *gundas* without one policeman coming to his assistance.

*Gunda* oppression in Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

8. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st September says that a chaukidar has prosecuted the Police Sub-Inspector of Barasat in the 24-Parganas district for assault and demanding illegal gratification. It is alleged that this police sub-inspector is in the habit of taking illegal gratification from the chaukidars, and of assaulting and ill-treating them if they refuse to pay the bribe demanded. The writer does not know whether the Barasat Police Sub-Inspector is really guilty of the offence with which he is charged. But it is a fact that there are a few police sub-inspectors in Bengal who do not force the chaukidars to pay them bribe. In fact the chaukidar is in every police-station treated like a bond slave by the station staff, from the constable to the sub-inspector. The Government has done a good deal to improve the *status* of the chaukidar, but it has yet to do a good deal more to save him from ill-treatment at the hands of the superior police officers.

The Police Sub-Inspector of Barasat in the 24-Parganas district.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept. 13th, 1895.

9. After more than a year's harassment, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 13th September, Rai Iswari Prasad has at length been honourably acquitted. His harassment by the police and the Magistrate at the instigation of some designing persons was quite unprecedented and baffles all description. But now that he has been proved innocent, who is to be held responsible for the trouble and pecuniary loss he has sustained? If Iswari Prasad's wrongs are allowed to go unredressed, the mufassal police will become bold and will not feel the least hesitation in persecuting any zamindar who may incur their displeasure, and they will be able to do so more easily than ever, as Magistrates now-a-days accept the word of the police as gospel truth. It is necessary, therefore, that the police and the Magistrate connected with Iswari Prasad's case should be taught some lesson.

Iswari Prasad's case.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept., 17th, 1895.

10. The Chief Justice, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 17th September, has found all the accused in the Asansol case guilty. But DeSouza has absconded, and Cowley has been acquitted by the Sessions Judge. The verdict of the European jury was for acquitting both Bartlett and Cowley. Why did the Sessions Judge refer

The Asansol case.



Bartlett's case to the High Court and acquit Cowley? The Chief Justice, however, thought Cowley guilty. The fact is that Babu Brajendra Kumar Seal, Sessions Judge of Burdwan, is an old man and is known to be rather fond of Englishmen. Perhaps he had not the courage to convict a European and a Eurasian both at the same time. But when he acquitted one, why did he not acquit both? Was it not ridiculous for him to acquit Cowley whose guilt was conclusively proved by the evidence adduced? Government should have Cowley re-tried. It has often before had native accused persons re-tried under similar circumstances; and let it follow its own example in the case of a Eurasian this time. If such villains are allowed to escape scot-free, there is no knowing what mischief may come of it.

11. The same paper has also the following:—

Mr. Collins' disregard of High Court rulings.

Any Magistrate who is audacious enough to order the High Court ought to be dismissed, and any one who insults that highest tribunal in the province ought to be severely punished. Lately when Mr. Collins was the District Magistrate of Alipore, he heard a case brought by the Alipore Municipality against a gentleman on the ground of his having blocked what the municipality claimed as a public drain. The pleader for the defence having quoted a precedent from the Law Reports that in a similar case the High Court had ruled a drain to be a private drain, the Magistrate replied:—"The High Court may do wonders." He also refused to be guided by a similar ruling of the Chief Justice in a recent case, because the case had not yet appeared in the Law Reports. Was it not sheer presumption on Mr. Collins' part to ignore rulings of the High Court? Does not Sir Charles Elliott consider Mr. Collins' conduct blamable?

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept. 17th, 1895.

12. The *Murshiddabad Hitaishi* of the 18th September says that though the

The Lalbagh Honorary Bench in the Murshidabad district.

sub-division at Lalbagh in the Murshidabad district has been abolished, the Honorary Bench has continued to exist, and the criminal work, which is by no means small, is got through entirely by the Bench Magistrates. What stupid man is there who will pay for work which can be got done for nothing? Government, however, does not exercise the least discrimination in selecting Honorary Magistrates. There are Honorary Magistrates in Lalbagh who do not know either English or Bengali, and some of them know neither substantive law nor the law of procedure. Does not the appointment of such men as Honorary Magistrates prove that Government makes light of Criminal Courts? Was it proper to abolish the Sub-divisional Court when there is so much criminal work to be done in the sub-division?

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Sept. 18th, 1895.

13. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th September complains that by a forced inter-

Babu Nagendranath Pal Chaudhari, Deputy Magistrate of Howrah.

pretation of section 15 of the Stamp Act, Babu Nagendranath Pal Chaudhari, Deputy Magistrate of Howrah, now acting as Sub-Registrar of that place in addition to his own duties, is compelling people to submit applications on stamped paper of the value of 8 annas for a certificate, that one document is only a copy of another in cases in which copies of documents are presented for registration.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

Babu Nagendranath is now also in temporary charge of the station, and it is complained that under him a proper supply is not kept of stamps of all descriptions. Seeing the suitors in his court use 4 or 8-anna stamps in cases where a 1-anna stamp would suffice, the first Munsif of Howrah learnt by enquiry that 1-anna stamps were not procurable from any of the local stamp-vendors, who said that they could not get stamps of that description from the Howrah Collectorate. The Munsif wrote to the Collectorate on the point, and received a reply from Babu Nagendranath to the effect that there was plenty of 1-anna stamps in the Collectorate, and that the stamp-vendors had neglected to indent for them. The writer is informed that after the enquiry made by the Munsif and before replying to it, a hasty supply of 1-anna court-fee stamps was procured by telegram. Who told the truth; the Deputy Magistrate or the stamp-vendors? If the latter have made the public incur unnecessary expense by a wilful misrepresentation, they should be punished.

14. The same paper objects to the selection of Mr. Abdur Rahman for a

HITAVADI.

Selection of Mr. Abdur Rahman as a Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Judgeship in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Mr. Abdur Rahman is a Barrister, but no one expected that he would ever be able to earn his



livelihood by legal practice. His education in this country was of a very meagre character, and his education in England was no better. But he has imposing looks and is well up in etiquette. Hitherto to please the officials has been the one object of his life. Wherever the Lieutenant-Governor has been, there Mr. Abdur Rahman too has been seen. He was always present at the Howrah and Sealdah railway station to welcome the officials.

The selection of Mr. Abdur Rahman is not only objectionable in itself, but also objectionable as an infringement of the right of the Subordinate Judicial Service to one of the Judgeships in the Calcutta Small Cause Court—a right which has hitherto been recognized by Government—by the successive appointment of a number of Subordinate Judges as Judges of that Court. There are a number of able Subordinate Judges such as Babus Krishna Mohan Mukerji, Amritlal Chatterji, Krishna Chandra Chatterjee and others. Why have their claims been overlooked in favour of a Barrister? This is another ineffacable stain on Sir Charles Elliott's name.

The writer has learnt from a trustworthy source that it is Sir Charles himself who has made this selection without consulting either the High Court or his own Secretaries. Mr. Handley, it is said, afforded His Honour a pretext for this appointment by requesting that Subordinate Judges of the type of Babu Purna Chandra Shome, who had displeased the Chief Judge while acting as a Judge in the Small Cause Court, might no longer be appointed as Judges of that Court.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

15. The same paper cannot understand why Babu Mahendra Nath Mitra, who is a second grade Subordinate Judge, has been appointed Judge of the Small Cause Courts of Howrah, Hooghly and Serampore in supersession of the claims of the many able first grade Subordinate Judges. After his appointment as Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, Babu Mahendra Nath was compelled to take leave on account of pressure of work. This is the first time that a second grade Subordinate Judge has been permanently appointed as Judge of the above Small Cause Courts.

HITAVADI.

16. The same paper calls Mr. Bernard's enquiry into the charges against Mr. Heard a farce; not that it suspects him of telling an untruth with the view of screening his subordinate officer, but that there is no possibility of getting at the truth by a private enquiry like that made by him. The writer repeats his charges against Mr. Heard, and is prepared to produce notices bearing that officer's seal demanding a supply of provisions.

Mr. Bernard has disposed of the charge that Mr. Heard was in the habit of causing the surplus of articles supplied to him to be publicly sold by the nazir of his court, by saying that as Mr. Heard never took such articles, he cannot have sold the surplus by auction through his nazir. Is not this a curious mode of proceeding? Why did not Mr. Bernard take the deposition of the nazir on the subject, as he could have easily done?

The writer says that there should be a public enquiry into the charges against Mr. Heard. Government is mistaken if it hopes to wipe away this stigma on its administration by simply transferring Mr. Heard. Government's prestige suffers more from screening guilty officials than from admitting their guilt. The writer is not, however, anxious for Mr. Heard's punishment. He only wants that there should be no more oppression in the Sonthal Parganas.

(d)—Education.

RANGPUR DIK  
PRAKASH,  
Sept. 12th, 1895.

17. The *Rangpur Dik Prakash* of the 12th September says that there is a girls' school in Kakina in the Rangpur district which used to send up candidates for the primary examinations. Kakina was hitherto a centre of examination. But it has been resolved to abolish this centre and make all candidates for the examinations go to Rangpur. This will be a source of great hardship to the female candidates who may be sent up by the Kakina girls' school for examinations. There was on such candidate for the primary examination this year who has been practically debarred from appearing at the examination by this new rule.

Hardship to female candidates for the primary examinations in Kakina in the Rangpur district.



HITAVADI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th September cannot understand for what special qualification the Calcutta University has appointed Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Company as its publishers. Last year the Sanskrit text-book for the Entrance Examination was out of print for three months, and this year the English course for that examination has been out of print for the last four months. For sometime the book, the price of which is only a rupee and a half, sold for prices up to Rs. 3, and now not a single copy of it is procurable. Such a state of things would not be possible if any body else than the Calcutta University had been the proprietor of the book. It is also easy to imagine how a native publisher would have been dealt with under similar circumstances. A book of the size of the English course can very well be printed in 15 days. How is it then that no new edition of it has been published during the last four months?

19. The fact that the books which have been hitherto published in Bengali as Histories of India have been merely translations of certain English text-books on the subject has led the same paper to form a very low opinion of the existing historical literature in Bengali. But Pandit Haraprasad Sastri's History of India in Bengali is an exception to the general rule. That an Indian has written a History of India is news to be glad of. Pandit Haraprasad Sastri's History should be extensively introduced into the schools of this country. His history does not give merely a dry catalogue of facts and burden the memory like ordinary histories, but has a truly educational value. It is to be hoped that the Pandit will benefit Bengal by writing a larger History of India.

HITAVADI.

20. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 21st September points out certain anomalies in the last middle vernacular examination:—

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

(1) In the paper on Bengali prose certain passages are quoted from *Prabandha Kusum*. Of these, the passages marked “১। ৭” and “১। ৮” do not occur in the edition of 1893, which was fixed as the text-book, but in that of 1881. Many of the examinees could not satisfactorily explain these passages. The examiners should be instructed to be liberal in allotting marks to the answers of these parts of the question.

(2) In the paper on Arithmetic and *Subhankari*, the word “পাঁচ” is used. In *Subhankari* “পাঁচ” is equivalent to pice, but the gentleman who set the question paper does not say whether he means pie or pice by the term. This has led to the candidates answering the questions in two different ways. In examining the papers the examiner should pay his attention to the correctness of the process and not to the meaning of the word “পাঁচ.”

(3) In the paper on Physics, the candidates have been asked to describe the construction and functions of Bramah's hydraulic machine. This machine is not mentioned in the text-books selected for the candidates for the middle vernacular examination. The marks allotted to this question should be distributed among the other questions.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

21. The *Uchit Vakta* of the 14th September suggests that the post of Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, which will shortly fall vacant, should be filled up by the appointment of Babu Nilambar Mukhopadhyaya, M.A., B.L., to it.

UCHITVAKTA,  
Sept. 14th, 1895.

22. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 18th September says, that though section 261 of the Bengal Municipal Act provides for the levy of a special fee only on those traders who have store-houses of kerosine oil, the Berhampore Municipality levies the license tax even on petty shop-keepers who deal in small quantities of the oil and have no such store-houses.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Sept. 18th, 1895.



The following circular of the Examiner of Local Accounts in Bengal also distinctly prohibits the levy of the tax on petty dealers:—

“Circular No. 160.

TO ALL LOCAL AUDITORS.

Auditors should note that section 261 of the Municipal Act does not contemplate the levy of fees from retail dealers of kerosine oil in small quantities who have no ‘store-house.’—Letter No. <sup>386</sup><sub>Dyna 226</sub>, dated 1st May 1893, from the Solicitor to the Government of India.

(Sd.) C. E. CRAWLEY,

Examiner of Local Accounts in Bengal.”

CALCUTTA,

The 30th May 1893.

The correspondent gives some instances in which the fee has been levied upon retail dealers.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

23. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st September says that Mr. Skrine has made it hot and strong to the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, and the Chairman is indirectly encouraging him in his unlawful conduct by not keeping him within the bounds of discipline. Mr. Ritchie, the present Chairman, is not like his predecessors. Both Sir Henry Harrison and Mr. Lee were strong men and they never allowed the Commissioners to fall foul of one another. Unlike Mr. Ritchie they did not try to get a resolution, passed by a meeting of the Commissioners, rescinded by another meeting. Overbearing they might be in their conduct, but they always loyally submitted to the decision of the Commissioners. But not so Mr. Ritchie. He has gathered round him a number of faithful followers who are determined to support him through thick and thin. Among these pet followers of the Chairman stands out the conspicuous figure of Mr. Skrine. Only the other day he abused the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji in the foulest manner possible; but when the attention of the Chairman was called to this, he did not even condescend to demand an explanation from Mr. Skrine. As Babu Surendra Nath very rightly observed, the Commissioners would be obliged to protect themselves against the aspersions of men like Mr. Skrine if the Chairman failed to protect them. Babu Narendra Nath Sen was quite right when he said that the Calcutta public was losing their faith in the impartiality of Mr. Ritchie.

(h)—General.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Sept. 16th, 1895

24. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th September contains the following observations in connection with the Annual General Administration Report of the Burdwan Division for 1894-95, so far as it relates to Bankura:—

Bankura in the Administration Report of the Burdwan Division.

(1) Babu Bepin Bihari Pramanik, Deputy Collector of Bankura, whose road cess revaluation work has been censured by the Commissioner, has been appointed Income-tax Deputy Collector. This has alarmed the people, because few of them have the means to go to Burdwan to appeal against the Deputy Collector's assessments. It is hoped that Government will appoint some competent officer to inspect how Bipin Babu has revised his own revaluation work under the Commissioner's orders.

(2) The Commissioner says that the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line has led to a falling off in the trade of Bankura. This is perfectly correct. But the Income-tax Deputy Collector's assessments of the incomes of traders would prove the contrary.

(3) The Commissioner has expressed dissatisfaction with the work of the Honorary Magistrates for their irregular attendance and procrastination of proceedings. Honorary Magistrates may be censured if they are not regular in attendance. But why should the Commissioner blame them if they allow cases to be compounded, acquit prisoners when there is doubt about their guilt, or allow the accused time to prove their innocence? It is because the Honorary Magistrates try cases on their merits and do not make it a rule to convict every



accused person that their work is so much liked by the people. Government, however, sighs for the day when the Honorary Magistrates will show the same inclination to convict accused persons as the Stipendiary Magistrates do. It is all very well for the Commissioner to censure the Honorary Magistrates for the inferior quality of their work and their irregularity in attendance. But is it right that Government should provide no court-house for respectable people who come to serve Government gratis? If two or three Honorary Magistrates attend Court on the same day, they actually find no room to sit in, so long as the kanungo does not close his own work and leave his office room to them. This office room, too, is a small chamber with three or four almirahs, two record-boxes, &c. In the middle of the room there is a small table which can hardly accommodate two or three Magistrates and the mukhtars and pleaders of the parties. The Magistrate has ordered that three Honorary Magistrates shall constitute a Bench, but there are hardly so many chairs in the office room as to accommodate three Magistrates at one and the same time. These respectable people have therefore sometimes to sit on wicker-work chairs and at the same table with clerks and mukhtars, to the shame of Government and their own exalted office.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th September has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 17th, 1895.

The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division on the working of coal mines.

In the opinion of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division the small coal mines within his jurisdiction, mostly owned by native capitalists, are not properly worked. The machinery with which these mines are worked is not of the best, and the men who ply them are not properly trained. Hence there is every likelihood of serious accidents taking place in these mines, placing the lives and limbs of the workmen in jeopardy. It, therefore, behoves the Government to keep a sharp eye on the working of these mines.

It is a well-known fact that the native proprietors work their mines at a comparatively small expense than the European proprietors, who with their large and costly establishment of mining engineers and trained managers are put to considerable expense. It is, therefore, quite natural that the native mining proprietors should sell their coal cheaper than their European brethren in the trade. The European proprietors of coal mines in Bengal have, therefore, to maintain an unequal contest with their native brethren, and in order to maintain their own against the latter, they proposed some time ago to move the Government with a view to force the native proprietors to work their mines according to scientific methods. Whether they carried out their proposal or not is not known. But it is well known that whenever there is competition between natives and Europeans, the latter try, by fair means or foul, to make the former go to the wall. Witness, for example, the machinations of the Manchester cotton manufacturers, who under the cloak of philanthropy, tried their best to ruin the Bombay cotton mill-owners. But the Commissioner of a division is not an interested party. He is a public officer and ought to remain scrupulously impartial in his opinion. In the present instance, however, great injustice is likely to be done to native mining proprietors if the Government is induced to act upon the opinion of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division and compel them to keep up a large and extensive establishment. Mining engineers are not available in this country. Mining engineering is not taught here. The native proprietors will have, therefore, to import mining engineers from Europe at great expense, and will have also to pay very high for mechanical engineers and trained managers. The native mining proprietors with small capital are not in a position to meet all these heavy items of expenditure, and will consequently be forced to close their concerns and leave the European proprietors undisputed masters of the situation.

It is, however, an undisputed fact that there have hitherto taken place very few accidents of a serious nature in the coal mines owned by native proprietors. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division does not also cite a single instance of such an accident ever taking place. Under such circumstances, the Government should think twice before it proceeds to act upon the opinion of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

26. Commenting on the Bengal Police Report for 1894-95, the *Vikrampur* of the 19th September observes that it will not go far to remove from the public mind the unfavourable

The Bengal Police.

VIKRAMPUR,  
Sept. 19th, 1895.



impression against the Bengal Police. Let the Government say what it may, there is no gain-saying the fact that even innocent people in Bengal live in constant dread of the police. It is a standing complaint against the Bengal police that it is corrupt to the backbone. The Government ought to try its best to remove from the public mind its prejudice against the police in this country.

VIKRAMPUR,  
Sept. 19th, 1895.

27. The same paper observes that during the rainy season many people die from snake-bite in East Bengal. There is a class of itinerant men in this part of the country called *mal vaidyas* or snake charmers who are expert in curing men of snake-bite. During the rainy season the Government should engage the services of these men to prevent people dying from snake-bite.

Deaths from snake-bite in East Bengal.

BANGANIVASI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

28. With reference to the appointment of Mr. Abdur Rahman to the 5th Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, the *Banganivasi* of the 20th September observes that in this case the Lieutenant-Governor has proved himself generous at the cost of justice. He has trampled upon justice in order to reward the son of a faithful friend of the Government. He has deprived the Sub-Judges of a long-enjoyed right in order to give a proof of his generosity.

Two recent acts of the Lieutenant-Governor.

In another act the Lieutenant-Governor has equally sacrificed justice at the altar of generosity. He has solved the Bhagalpur election difficulty by nominating the Maharaja of Gidhour to a seat in the Legislative Council. In both these acts the Lieutenant-Governor has trampled upon justice and given the people cause for discontent.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

29. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th September strongly recommends Babu Jadunath Roy, 4th Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, for a special pension. He is the best Judge in that court, and he is as courteous as he is able. The fact that he has brought diabetes on himself by hard work in the public service specially recommends him for such a pension. As Subordinate Judge of Midnapore he did single handed for a period of 11 years, the work which now two Subordinate Judges find themselves hardly able to cope with. The number of cases was very large in the Sealdah Small Cause Court when he acted as the Judge of that court. Mr. Jones and Babu Girishchandra Ghosh of the Calcutta Small Cause Court obtained special pensions. Babu Jadunath is inferior to neither in point of ability or of character. His faculty for hard work is extraordinary, and his sense of duty is equally remarkable. If Government does not grant a special pension to so meritorious an officer, on whom will it confer such a favour?

Babu Jadunath Roy.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Sept. 22nd, 1895.

30. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 22nd September has the following:—

Sir Charles Elliott and Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Coming December will see Sir Charles Elliott leave these shores for ever. Man's desires are not all gratified. Sir Charles Elliott wished to rule over the destinies of Bengal for some time longer, and he is going to retire much against his will. A couple of months more, and he will cease to play his part in the administration of India—to bring about new changes, to introduce strange innovations. There is little doubt, however, that all the time Sir Charles was heaping misery upon misery to the Indian people, he sincerely believed that he was doing them good. He created discontent, while he believed that he was introducing a reign of peace. He passed really retrogressive measures with the conviction that they were calculated to improve the condition of the people. He let in darkness with the belief that he was letting in light. It is human weakness always to ignore one's own faults and shortcomings. Sir Charles Elliott lived in blissful ignorance of the harm that he was really doing to the country. Otherwise he would not have continued to rule over Bengal simply for the sordid consideration of a lakh of rupees a year.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the Lieutenant-Governor *elect*, is a man of ripe experience. His experience of Bengal especially is great. Sir Charles Elliott came to rule over Bengal with a mind perfectly void of experience of the Bengal people and he was a failure as a Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It is our sad experience that all Lieutenant-Governors, who began with little or



no experience of Bengal, invariably ended as miserable failures. It was they who committed the greatest anomalies. There was never a Lieutenant-Governor whose rule was more anomalous than that of Sir George Campbell. But Sir Charles has outdone even Sir George, and has thoroughly put him out of countenance. Sir Steuart Bayley once observed that to be the best Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, one should try one's best to govern the country efficiently and well without in any way interfering with the established system of administration. Sir Steuart's words were almost prophetic. And we have invariably seen that the rulers of Bengal, who have most interfered with the established system of administration, have created the greatest possible disorder in the Government, and made their rule most fruitful of anomalies. There is reason to expect that Sir Alexander Mackenzie, with his ripe experience of Bengal, will not follow in the footsteps of Sir Charles Elliott; and that he will allow the people to breathe a little more freely during his rule.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

31. The *Uchit Vakta* of the 7th September says that if the Jury Bill be passed into law, the District Judges will be all-powerful, the Jury will seldom venture to differ from the Judges, and the High Court will be to some extent deprived of its existing powers. Sir Alexander Miller ought to withdraw the Bill.

UCHIT VAKTA,  
Sept. 7th, 1895.

32. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 13th September says that the manner in which Sir Charles Elliott has solved the Bhagalpur election difficulty is praiseworthy indeed! It is a solution which it is not in the power of many to arrive at! He has rejected the candidature of both Mr. Hennessy and Babu Surrya Narayan Singh, and has appointed the Maharaja of Gidhour. Thus the jackal has fled with the prey over which the lion and the buffalo have been quarrelling. But we are sorry for Mr. Hennessy. Alas, have all his efforts at last come to this! Just think of the Weatherall affair and Mr. Forbes' exertions on Mr. Hennessy's behalf. The indigo-planters spared no pains to get him made an Honourable, and our hearts are ready to break at the sight of his discomfiture. Oh, even Mr. Temple's efforts to maintain the prestige of his future grandfather-in-law have proved infructuous. How could the Lieutenant-Governor be so spiteful? We fear lest His Honour should next be ostracised. But is this the way in which His Honour has requited the Purnea Club for the hearty reception it accorded him on the occasion of his late visit to that town? His good luck and prestige as an indigo-planter seem to have left Mr. Hennessy. May God give him strength to bear up against the mental shock he has received.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept. 13th, 1895.

33. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th September has the following:—

The Jury Bill. It is well known that the English officials in India are no very great admirers of the jury system. That most of them are decidedly against it is quite patent from such measurers as the Jury Notification of Sir Charles Elliott. Why, however, should Englishmen in India so far forget their English instincts as to try their best to lay the axe at the root of the jury system, is a mystery which we have never been able to solve. But this much we can say that their antipathy towards this time-honoured institution does not reflect great credit on the great English nation.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 17th, 1895.

Sir Alexander Miller is the foremost among the Anglo-Indian officials who cherish an antipathy towards the jury system. While in England he wrote against it, but his arguments fell flat upon the English people, who are staunch admirers of the system. Thus failing to ride his hobby in England, he has trotted it out in India with the conviction that he will succeed in achieving in official-ridden India what he failed to achieve in the free English soil. And in all likelihood his conviction may turn out to be well-founded. In his Bill he has kept the form of the system intact, but has taken the substance out of it, and proposes to virtually abolish trial by jury in this country. Under the existing law all that the jury have to do is to go through the evidence in a case and then to declare whether the prisoner at the bar is "guilty" or "not guilty." The Judge has no power to ask them the reasons on which their verdict may be based. In the Bill under notice, the Judge has been given not only this power,



but also the power of virtually subjecting the jury to a searching cross-examination. He can now harass them with a multitude of questions about the conclusion they draw from a certain number of premises, about the truth or falsity of this or that portion of the evidence; in fact, about anything and everything that may occur to his mind. In this way, the Judge can, if he likes, draw out from the jury a verdict to his liking, instead of giving them the opportunity of declaring their free and independent opinion. This process of cross-examining the jury could not, however, have led to any evil consequences if the jurors had all been recruited from among lawyers. But this is not the case. In the main, especially most of the jurors are laymen ignorant of the intricacies of law, who cannot be expected to successfully pass through the ordeal of cross-examination, and clearly explain to the Judge the reasons on which they may have based their verdict in a particular case. Their mind can grasp the facts of a case, and draw from them unconsciously a right conclusion. But not being legally trained, it may not put them in a syllogistic form. The Judge will, therefore, very easily succeed in drawing out of them a verdict after his own liking, and thus make the system of trial by jury practically a dead, empty form.

Under the existing law, again, the Judge is bound to accept the verdict of the jury if he does not "disagree with it so completely that he considers it necessary for the ends of justice to submit the case to the High Court." In that case—and in that case alone—he may refer the case to the High Court. At present the number of such references is, therefore, very small. But Sir Alexander proposes to give the Judge the power of referring a case to the High Court whenever he may happen to differ from the jury. This will not only virtually abolish the jury system, but will make the number of references to the High Court very large—so very large that the High Court Judges may not be able to dispose of them. The Government will, therefore, have either to incur the expense of appointing additional Judges to the High Court, or to make them dispose of the references in hot haste, which is very likely to lead to miscarriage of justice.

The framer of the Bill says that the proposed amendments will do nothing more than giving effect to some of the recommendations of the Jury Commission. The recommendations of the Jury Commission support none of the proposed amendments, although it may be true that some isolated members of the Commission may have recommended the amendment of the jury system in the way proposed by Sir Alexander Miller in his Bill. The Law Member also insinuates that native jurors do not always pronounce an impartial verdict—a statement which is disproved by the fact that in almost all references and appeal cases the High Court Judges affirm the verdict of the jury.

We need not spend many words more to convince the public that the jury system is in danger, and it will not do sitting idle at this critical moment.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 18th, 1896.

34. The *Sahachar* of the 18th September says that considering that Sir Alexander Miller's proposed amendment of the jury law will affect the European as well as the

native community of whole India, the European community, too, should join the natives in opposing the measure. The Bill, if passed, will empower the Sessions Judges to cross-examine jurors like ordinary witnesses. This deprivation of the independence of jurors will deter men having a sense of honour from wishing to serve on a jury, and will, in consequence, lead to the virtual abolition of the jury system. In fact, the passing of the Bill will make the position of jurors worse than that of assessors.

The power which the Bill proposes to confer on the Sessions Judges of making frequent reference to the High Court will throw a vast deal of additional work on that court, which it will be impossible for it to get through unless the number of its Judges is increased. And is Government prepared to do this?

SAHACHAR.

35. The same paper says that by appointing a man to represent the Bhagalpur Division who is not an elected candidate,

The Bhagalpur election.

Sir Charles Elliott has deprived the voters of that division of the privilege which has been bestowed upon them by the new Indian Councils Act. But why has Sir Charles Elliott done such a wrong thing? What grounds had he to disbelieve that Rai Suryyanarayan had secured



the largest number of votes? Did not the delegates individually express their views to the Commissioner, and did not that official on the strength of this evidence write in favour of Rai Suryyanarayan's candidature? In this case, too, His Honour ought to have acted as he did in the Dacca election, namely, by ordering a re-election. As it is His Honour could not have committed a greater mistake. He wrote to the Commissioner saying that he had appointed neither Suryyanarayan nor Mr. Hennessy, because the election had been attended with much that was underhand and questionable. But was it not Government officers themselves who took the most prominent part in vitiating the election by their unjustifiable actions? Whatever explanation His Honour may give of the course he has taken, the public believe that his decision has been greatly influenced by the fact that one of the candidates is a European, and that it has proceeded from a desire not to displease the European community. If the contest had lain between two natives, there is no doubt that His Honour would have solved the question in a most upright and satisfactory manner.

36. The same paper has the following:—

The Drainage Bill.

In his Drainage Bill Sir Charles Elliott has not only violated the terms of the Permanent Settlement, but has unjustly and unfairly exempted Government and the Railway Companies from bearing a portion of the cost of drainage works. It was not certainly proper for His Honour to pass a Bill which was opposed not only by all the non-official members of his Council, but also by the whole native press and by the more experienced District Officers. The measure was supported only by the handful of official members of the Council who were bound to follow their master. Even the Chamber of Commerce, an Association of European merchants, expressed their opinion against it. It is hoped that Lord Elgin will attach due weight to the opinion of the country and will veto the Bill. People will then say that he is the worthy son of a worthy father, and has the welfare of the country he rules at heart.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 18th, 1895.

37. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 19th September is afraid lest Sir Jahan Kader Mirza should, under official pressure, forbear from giving his independent view

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Sept. 19th, 1895.

The Pilgrim Ships Bill.  
on the Pilgrim Ships Bill.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th September says that the explanation which the Lieutenant-Governor has given of his decision in the Bhagalpur election case will not satisfy the public. His Honour says that seeing that there was no hope of a settlement, and that there was no means of ascertaining whose election was desired by the majority of the people of Bhagalpur, he at first thought of taking away from that division the elective right; but on second thoughts felt that it would be wrong to proceed to such extremities the very first time, and therefore elected a third person as the best solution of the difficulty.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

Equality of votes is not a failure of election, and it would have been therefore well if, as was done in Dacca, a re-election had been ordered. Nor would it have been at all impracticable for Government to ascertain in whose favour the majority of the members of the District Boards had given their votes. The Lieutenant-Governor did wrong by electing a third person, and sweet words alone will not do away with the unpopularity of his action.

39. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 21st September says that the proposed amendment of the Legal Practitioners Act will fail to check law-touting, but will only be a source of harassment to pleaders and mukhtars. The distinction made in the Bill between pleaders and mukhtars on the one hand and barristers on the other is also extremely unjust. Why should the former alone be punishable for paying commission to dālāls and not the barristers also? For the matter of that, pleaders and mukhtars depend much less on dālāls than barristers. It is a notorious fact that every barrister has a Babu in his employ, whose whole duty consists in securing clients for his employer. And it is these avaricious Babus who are more dangerous to the parties than the petty dālāls who find work for pleaders and mukhtars.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

Last of all it remains to be seen if the Bill has any political aspect. There is no doubt that it has. Who does not know that the members of the legal



profession are famed for their courage of conviction and their independence? Many Judges and Magistrates often find themselves hard put to it for the independence of the bar. Courage and independence are therefore qualities which cannot be tolerated in British India, but their owner must be doomed to the gallows. During the Manipur imbroglio, the ministry in England justified their action in regard to Tikendrajit by openly avowing that a man of his courage and independence was a danger to the British dominion, and should be hanged. The new law will put a restraint upon the freedom of action and speech of pleaders and mukhtars, and will subject them to the control of Judges and Magistrates.

*SANJIVANI*,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

40. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st September does not approve of the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter of the Bhagalpur election. The Government, observes the writer, has nominated one of its sycophants to a seat in the Legislative Council, although he did not even seek that honour. During the period of two long years, for which the Maharaja of Gidhaur sat in the Legislative Council, did he ever speak a single word in behalf of the Indian people? What right, then, has he to call himself a representative of the people? If the Lieutenant-Governor did not think it advisable to nominate either Mr. Hennessy or Rai Suryya Narayan Sing Bahadur, why did he not nominate a better man than the Maharaja of Gidhaur, who could really lay a claim to the right of representing the Bhagalpur public? Is His Honour prepared to say that no such man could be found in the whole Bhagalpur Division? The Maharaja of Gidhaur should be better called a nominated member, and not the representative of the Bhagalpur public in the Bengal Legislative Council.

*DACCA GAZETTE*,  
Sept. 23rd, 1895.

41. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 23rd September says that on the pretence of improving the administration of justice, Sir Alexander Miller has proposed an amendment which, if passed, will facilitate the perpetration of injustice. Many Judges in this country take a delight in convicting accused persons, and the High Court and the jury system are the only checks upon them. Sir Alexander has said that his Jury Bill is based upon the recommendations of the Jury Commission. But as a matter of fact that Commission never recommended any such amendment as is proposed to be made by the Bill. The power of questioning jurors about their verdicts, which is now proposed to be conferred upon Sessions Judges, will enable them in many cases to extort from the jury a verdict differing essentially from what they originally gave. Persons are often appointed jurors who never saw an Englishman before, and it will be quite easy for a Judge to extort from them the verdict which he desires by means of frowns and subtle questions. The Viceroy and Sir Alexander Miller are requested to withdraw the Jury Bill. There are many other sections in the Code of Criminal Procedure which may be profitably amended. It would be wrong to do away with a beneficial system for the purpose of facilitating arbitrary action.

*TRIPURA PRAKASH*,  
for the 2nd fortnight  
of Bhadra, 1302 B.S.

42. The *Tripura Prakash* for the second fortnight of Bhadra 1302 (B.S.) observes that the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill in its present form will do a great harm to the country. Let legal touting be put down by all means, but why place the legal practitioners under the absolute control of Divisional Commissioners and District Judges? This will be making the position of the lawyers thoroughly unsafe. The proposed amendment gives the Commissioners and Judges the power to suspend and even to disbar a legal practitioner on suspicion that he has dealings with a touter. An appeal will of course lie to the High Court against the decision of the Judge or the Commissioner. But this remedy will not be an effectual one. All District Judges are not of the same nature. They are many who will, in all likelihood, take advantage of the power with which they are invested by the Bill, in order to wreak their vengeance upon unfortunate pleaders and mukhtars who may happen to incur their displeasure. Magistrates and Judges are generally on close terms of friendship. And it most frequently happens that a legal practitioner who cares more for the law than for the Magistrate, runs the risk of incurring the displeasure of the latter. In such cases it is most likely that the Magistrate will try his best to ruin the unfortunate legal practitioner through his friend, the District Judge. All Judges of course are not vindictive, but even good Judges



may err. Mr. Hardinge is an upright Judge. But even he was induced by the Magistrate, Mr. Phillips, to ruin a pleader, who escaped from his hands only by appealing to the High Court. Mr. Posford, too, while District Judge of Backergunge, tried his best to ruin some of the members of the local bar. But it is not necessary to multiply instances.

With reference to the Jury Bill, the writer observes that the Indian public expected that Sir Alexander Miller's Jury Bill would enlarge the scope and local extent of the jury system in the country. But it appears that the Bill has for its object the curtailing of the powers of the jury and the virtual abolition of the jury system. The mover of the Bill said that it was introduced with the sole object of giving effect to the recommendations of the Jury Commission. The Jury Commission's Report does not, however, contain any recommendation that might necessitate the amendment proposed by the law member. The country is already over-ridden by a multiplicity of legal enactments. But there seems to be no end of law-making.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

43. The *Uchit Vakta* of the 14th September has the following:—

Cashmere.

It is a wonder that Government takes no notice of the condition of the Cashmere State and its subjects. The people of Cashmere derive no good from the existing Council, and it is only in name that the Maharaja is called the President of the Council. He has no power to oppose the English policy. His views and those of the native members have no weight against those of the English members. The fact is that Cashmere is being governed not according to the wishes of its subjects, but under the directions of the English officials. This is not what should be done if Government is really anxious to improve the condition of the people of that State. The present Council ought to be dissolved and a new one formed by election containing, among others, Raja Bala Deva Singh and Raja Ragunath Singh as its members. At present no other members except the Maharaja, and his brother are concerned about the condition of the State and its people. The raiyats of the State regularly pay their rent, but get no advantage in return. It is true that in one or two towns there are schools and hospitals, and that Jammu has some good roads which are lighted at night, but what are these to the miserable people of the mufassal? It is true that Jammu has got water-works, but the mufassal people are dying for want of water. It is to be regretted that the existing Council pays no heed to the real grievances of the people and is only anxious to do things at the cost of the exchequer, which add a superficial beauty to the State. Government, which does not seem disposed to surrender to the Maharaja his political independence, ought to do something to reform the Council.

UCHIT VAKTA  
Sept. 14th, 1895.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

44. According to a correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 21st September, the prospects of crops are very gloomy in Nabhpur

Prospects of crops in Birbhum.

Darhka in Birbhum. The rice plants are being parched up through want of rain. If there be rain yet, an eight-anna crop may be expected. Rice is selling at *Kanchi* 23 or 24 seers, and unhusked rice at 6 *aris* per rupee.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

45. A Nilphamari correspondent of the *Rangpur Dik Prakash* of the 12th September apprehends the imposition of a fresh

Fear of fresh taxation in Nilphamari in the Rangpur district.

tax. The land in Nilphamari is being surveyed, and statistics are being collected of the quantity of produce, such as rice, tobacco, and jute, grown on a certain area of land. This has produced a fear of fresh taxation in the public mind, and this fear is strengthened by the fact that fat-salaried officers have been engaged for the purpose of making the survey and collecting the statistics. It is not likely that the Government is incurring all this expense and trouble for nothing.

RANGPUR DIK  
PRAKASH,  
Sept. 12th, 1895.

46. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 13th September has the following:—

Mr. Cotton.

We have seen Mr. Cotton in many characters. At one time he was extremely fond of the natives,

SULABH DAINIK,  
Sept. 13th, 1895.



so much so that he was excluded from the European community. The Europeans at that time taunted the natives by saying: "What have the Bengalis to fear, they have their Cotton." Then he had sympathy with native society in general, now he takes into his good graces only those natives who flatter him. It is rumoured that he will be the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Will he then, after the precedent of Sir Charles Elliott, next become the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal? The contingency is enough to make the Bengalis anxious. But there is this consolation that the present generation will have become extinct by the time Mr. Cotton ascends the *minard* of Bengal.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Sept. 15th, 1895.

47. In the opinion of the *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 15th September there cannot be a better governor than Sir Charles Elliott; let people say what they may. It is not always that one comes across a man who can keep a sharp eye on all public officers from a peon to a High Court Judge and enter into the secrets of their official duties. In Sir Charles Elliott all the good qualities have combined to make him an ideal governor. Sir Charles Elliott is compelled to leave Bengal, his term of office having come to an end. He had, however, no great desire to leave the people.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Sept. 16th, 1895.

48. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th September says that a boy of the weaver caste has been decoyed from Kankata in the Bankura district by a cooly recruiter. The boy's father found out his whereabouts and wrote him a letter. The lad is only 15 years and 6 months old. It is hoped the authorities will enquire into the case and send him back to his home.

DAINIK BHARAT  
MITRA,  
Sept. 17th, 1895.

49. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 17th September has the following:—  
A study of the administrations of former Lord Elgin's administration. Viceroy's leads one to the conclusion that what most of them did was for the good of the subject people. But the administrations of the Viceroy's of the present day are of a quite different character. The Viceroy's of these latter days have, for the most part, been mere creatures in the hands of the Secretaries of State for India. Lord Elgin's proposal about the discontinuance of special trains for all big officials vanished into the air. His Lordship also declared with his own mouth that the Chitral expedition would cost only 15 lakhs of rupees, but now we see that the cost has exceeded two crores. Had it been the English tax-payers' money, the ministry would have certainly been turned out of office for thus squandering it. But in India, though Lord Elgin has impoverished the country by two crores, he still maintains his position, and no one takes him to task for the acts he has done. We had a great confidence that Lord Elgin would be a good ruler of India, and the speeches he delivered in several places excited a hope that His Excellency would do good to India. But his policy of ruling the country in accordance with the views of the official classes has been fatal to India's interests. In his Lahore speech, Lord Elgin said that the Government of India had given up the annexation policy, and that the strengthening of the empire was the duty which was entrusted to him by the ministry in England. But only a short time after he interfered with the Bhurtpur State, invaded Chitral, and conquered the Lushai Hills. These acts leave us no alternative but to look upon Lord Elgin as a mere puppet in the hands of the Secretaries of State for India. In his farewell speech in England he said that he would follow in the footsteps of his father, but alas he has failed to keep his word. Since he assumed charge in India as Viceroy, he has done nothing to earn the good wishes of its people.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 18th, 1895.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 18th September has the following:—  
The Dhulia riot. One may ask why did the Hindus at Dhulia, on the occasion of the recent riot, fly before the Musalmans, though their number was far larger than that of the latter. The fact is that the Hindus seldom like to enter into quarrels on religious matters. But the principal reason of their flight was that from Government's attitude towards the Musalmans in all previous quarrels, the Hindus have come to believe that Government supports the Musalmans and persecutes the Hindus who engage in such quarrels; and that it is therefore best for the Hindus to avoid them. The Musalmans, on the other hand, have now-a-days come to believe that in all religious quarrels with the Hindus it is an act of religious merit on their part to shed the Hindu's blood.



The undue favour shown to the Musalmans has at last emboldened them to attack the authorities themselves; and this is due solely to the weak policy of Lord Harris, the predecessor of the present Governor of Bombay. It is now the Government's duty to adopt a liberal policy and settle the disputes between the two peoples.

51. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th September has the following:—

The question of the Lieutenant-Governor's application for extension of service.

The Lieutenant-Governor has written to the editor of the *Hitavadi* as follows, contradicting the news which we had published that he had applied for an extension of his term of office, and the

Government of India had not sanctioned it:—

"The writer of this article has either made a deliberate false statement, or else he has been deceived by some one who put before him documents which he was induced to think were the letters of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy, though they were not so."

That is to say, the writer of that news has either consciously stated a falsehood, or has been deceived by seeing letters that are not genuine. We learn from the Lieutenant-Governor's letter of the 14th September that the letters of which copies came to our hand were not genuine, and that this news was false. We are now extremely sorry that we circulated that news.

52. Criticising "Anglo-Indian's" article on the Native Press of India,

The Native Press of India.

published in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, the *Sanjivani* of the 21st September makes the following

observations:—

The writer of the article is evidently an English official, and from the tone of his writings, one may fairly conjecture that he has a hand in the making of law in this country, and this has led many people to suspect that the writer is no less a personage than Sir Alexander Miller, the Law Member himself. But whoever he may be, we unhesitatingly agree with his remark that those who create, spread and foster sedition against the British Government in India should be severely dealt with. But we totally scout the idea that among educated Indians there is even one who is seditiously disposed towards the Government. We Bengalis very well know that our national life entirely depends on the stability of the British rule in India. If Englishmen were this moment to leave India, bag and baggage, we should be the next moment totally ruined as a nation. There will again prevail the reign of terror and superstition in the land. It is true that the native press have now and then to strongly criticise the conduct of English officials, but can any one venture to say, that there was ever a native paper in existence which expressed the desire that the British rule in India should cease to exist? The Anglo-Indian officials do not find out the distinction between English officials and the British Government, and they mistake the criticism of the conduct of English officials for attack on the British rule. This wrong impression should be removed from their mind. We are great admirers of the British Government, but that is no reason why we should indiscriminately praise one and all English officials. If to find fault with English officials like Mr. Fordyce is the same thing as to find fault with the British Government; there is no escape for us, and we are prepared to put our neck into the halter, without, however, forsaking the hope that the day will come when the English Government itself will break our fetters, and save us from the tyranny of English officials in India.

53. Referring to the Dhulia disturbance, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 21st

The Dhulia disturbance.

September observes that there is nothing in the world dearer to a Musalman than his religion, for

the sake of which he can even lay down his life. In the discomfiture of the Musalmans all over the world, one sees the triumph of vice over virtue. But let all pious followers of the prophet take heart. Let them not renounce their trust in God. Let them not tarnish the fair fame of Islam by their jealousy and hatred of those who profess a different faith. Let them not lose patience and forbearance, but heart within and God overhead, let them be reconciled to the changing circumstances and put the best face upon a bad case.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

54. The *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* for the 2nd fortnight of Bhadra 1302

Extra Assistant Commissioner-ships in Assam.

B.S. has the following in English:—

The present ruler of this province has always been known to prefer merit to mere seniority in

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 20th, 1895.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 21st, 1895.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Sept. 21, 1895.

PARIDARSAK-O-SRIHATTAVASI,  
2nd fortnight, of  
Bhadra, 1302 B.S.



making higher appointments in the public service. This wholesome principle has, indeed, been acted upon in some instances, but we are constrained to say that its recognition has been very slow and imperfect. The right of the educated youth of Assam to participate in the "loaves and fishes" of his own province in preference to the outsider of equal merit, has not up to date been so clearly recognised by the provincial authorities as it should be.

The Extra Assistant Commissionership, corresponding to the Deputy Magistracy of Bengal, is a most important post in Assam, and yet can it be said that the Government has always bestowed it upon the best available man of the province? Surely it would be absurd to maintain that there are not many "children of the soil" fit for the post of an Extra Assistant Commissioner. It will, we think, be admitted on all hands that the B. L.'s of the Calcutta University have the requisite qualification for the post, and that throughout Assam their number is considerable. But the claims of this important class of educated natives of the Province have been so much neglected, that we doubt if more than two or three of them can be found in the whole service. Their position again is very peculiar. Their first thought is turned towards the High Court. This august assembly, composed of all *judicial* brains, has, however, made certain rules which lay down (1) that recommendation by big people is the first qualification of a B. L. candidate for Munsifship, (2) that a near relation (even the wife's brother) of a Munsif or a Sub-Judge is to be preferred to one who is not so related, and (3) University distinction. These rules, if framed by a purely executive body, would have been assailed with all the might of public opinion; but they are all honourable men, and so, not wishing to face public odium they do not publish their rules. The published rules only declare that a candidate's prior enrolment in their *khatha* will not entitle him to claim priority in appointment. This nice provision has been evidently made in order to allow the abovementioned rules to have their due effect, and all know that no undue effect is ever given them by their honourable framers. The consequence of these unjust rules is obvious, and nowhere does their injustice fall so disastrously as upon the native of Assam. Not to speak of the enormous distance which he has to travel, the very quarter from which he goes is one with which few honourables have any sympathetic acquaintance. (Their selection of Judges and Sub-Judges for Sylhet, the most advanced district in the province, is an instance in point.) The first rule, therefore, is almost wholly prohibitive; the second is entirely so, for evidently limitation bars the remedy, as the lawyers say, in the few cases in which one or two candidates might claim relationship with a Persian-knowing Munsif or Sub-Judge of old. Last of all, but very reluctantly, comes the University claim, and if the theory of probabilities be true, the Assam candidate has a very poor chance indeed. His brain is stored with knowledge, but the stomachic apparatus nourishes it not, and he pines away his days in the service of "Plaintiffs" and "Defendant," whose number, again is not much larger than that of his class.

In all seriousness, then, whither is he to go for his living if not to the *ma bap* of his province? We, therefore, beseech our Chief to take their circumstances into his earliest consideration, and before laying down the reins of government to make some provision for this class of educated natives of his province. We know of many whose practice is not inconsiderable but who are still willing to enter Government service in consideration of securing a permanent income instead of depending upon a profession, which is every day going down on account of the ever increasing number of competitors. Their services, we are sure, will greatly add to the efficiency of the administration, intellectually as well as morally. An act like this will enhance his reputation as a wise ruler, and enshrine his memory in the hearts of the people upon whom he was called upon by Providence to rule.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 28th September 1895.